

Iowa Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan 2003 Update

Submitted by:
The Iowa Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council



This report and other CJJP publications can be found at:
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/cjip/recpub.html>

Introduction

Iowa Code Section 216A.135 requires the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council (CJJPAC) to submit a long-range plan for Iowa's justice system to the Governor and General Assembly every five years and to update this plan annually. The Council's most recent long-range plan was prepared and submitted in February 2000. This plan, and the goals it lays out for Iowa's criminal and juvenile justice system can be found at the website maintained by the Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJJ), which provides staff support to the CJJPAC. Also at CJJP's website is a general overview of the duties and activities of the CJJP along with numerous reports and information about criminal and juvenile justice programs and operations. [VISIT CJJP'S WEBSITE](#)

This report discusses a number of topics and presents data and other information in response to Iowa Code Section 216A.135's mandate for an annual Plan Update. It was prepared as an e-document and relies mainly on links to other documents which, when combined, make up the complete report. The outline that follows presents the topics being presented this year by the CJJPAC and is both a table of contents and a "site-map" for the report.

NOTE: This "Iowa Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan – 2003 Update" is a PDF file containing links to the report sites and locations. If you experience any difficulty accessing any of these sites from this document, please try going directly to [CJJJ'S PUBLICATION WEB PAGE](#) or call CJJP at 515-242-5823.

Long-Range Goals for Iowa's Criminal and Juvenile Justice System

Every five years, the CJJPAC develops long-range goals for Iowa's justice system. February 2000 was the release date of the report containing CJJPAC's most recent goals. The report was prepared to provide helpful information to policy makers, system officials, practitioners and others interested in improving Iowa's justice system, and it is structured around the following planning areas:

- Violence Reduction And Crime Prevention
- Public Confidence In The Justice System
- Minority Overrepresentation In The Justice System
- Coordination Of Government Responsibilities And System Operations
- Information Systems -- Planning And Monitoring
- Technology
- Sanctions, Supervision, Treatment And Services For Adult Offenders
- Sanctions, Supervision, Treatment And Services For Juvenile Offenders

[READ THE 2000 REPORT](#)

Justice Data Warehouse - Courts and Community-Based Corrections Data

CJJJ, with the assistance and cooperation of Iowa's Judicial Branch, the Iowa Technology Department, the Department of Corrections (DOC) and others, has established a data resource to provide the judicial, legislative and executive branches of state government and others with improved statistical and decision support information pertaining to justice system activities. Originally populated with data provided by the Judicial Branch, the justice data warehouse now also contains community-based corrections data provided by DOC. CJJP's Justice Data Warehouse website contains a brief description of this data resource, examples of its use and an assortment of state, judicial district and county level court and community-based corrections data from the warehouse. [VISIT THE JUSTICE DATA WAREHOUSE WEBSITE](#)

Prison Population Forecast

Prison admissions in Iowa have increased 75% over the last ten years. Average lengths of stay in prison also have increased during the last decade. Over 8,400 people are now being housed in Iowa prisons, compared to the 4,485 that were in prison at mid-year 1992. If current offender behaviors and system policies and practices continue, Iowa's prison population would be expected to grow. CJJP regularly collects and analyses data with which to describe and project Iowa's prison population. An annual CJJP report describes the forecast model used by CJJP and includes data describing the nature and trends of prison admissions and lengths of stay in Iowa.

[READ THE REPORT](#)

Iowa's County Jails

As passed by the 2002 Iowa General Assembly, H.F. 2278 created a new Iowa Code Section 356.36A that gave CJJP the direction to collect and report information about jails and secure holding facilities in the State. This 2003 Plan Update contains the first issue of the required report and includes:

- An inventory of prisoner space
- Daily prisoner counts
- Facilities' compliance with section 356.36 of the Iowa Code (jail standards)
- An inventory of recent jail or facility construction projects and their costs
- Recommendations on offender data needed to estimate future jail space needs.

[READ THE REPORT](#)

Two other recent jail-related reports prepared by CJJP may be of additional interest. The 2002 Plan Update included a report on jail issues (go to [Iowa Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan 2002 Update](#)). Also, see an October 2002 report, titled [Computerization and Examination of Computer Systems, Software, and Communications in Iowa's County Attorney Offices and Jails](#).

Monitoring the Impact of Recent Legislation

Senate File 543, enacted during the 2001 legislative session, changed the maximum penalty for first-offense Burglary-3rd degree, and established new sentencing options available to the court. Because of the increased discretion extended to judges by this legislation, the General Assembly requested that the Department of Corrections (DOC) prepare a report concerning the use of these new provisions. Since 2001, the DOC and the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council (CJJ PAC) requested that CJJP complete a monitoring report describing the use of Senate File 543 provisions. More recently, the CJJPAC asked CJJP to also monitor the impact of a new law, Iowa Code Section 692A.2A, enacted during the 2002 session to create a new criminal offense of living within 2000 feet of a school or child care facility. The following report describes the use and impact of these new laws.

[READ THE REPORT](#)

Mental Health and Iowa's Correctional Population

The 2002 Plan Update included a report outlining a number of issues and recommendations relative to the mental health treatment needs of Iowa's correctional population (see [Iowa Criminal and Juvenile Justice Plan 2002 Update](#)). Since that report was prepared, the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council (CJJ PAC) has continued to discuss the issues of this report.

In Iowa, as is true throughout the nation, policy-makers, system officials, service practitioners and others are continuing to struggle with how best to address the mental health treatment needs of prison and community-based corrections populations. As recently as October, 2002, a recently formed *President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health* issued an interim report that included the following introductory comments:

"The Commission is united in the belief that the mental health service delivery system needs dramatic reform. It is becoming clear that the mental health services system does not adequately serve millions of people who need care. While many consumers do receive effective treatments and services, many others do not. The system is fragmented and in disarray³⁴not from lack of commitment and skill of those who deliver care, but from underlying structural, financing, and organizational problems. Many of the problems are due to the "layering on" of multiple, well-intentioned programs without overall direction, coordination, or consistency. The system's failings lead to unnecessary and costly disability, homelessness, school failure, and incarceration." See ["Interim Report to the President, October 29, 2002"](#).

In directing staff to prepare this information, the CJPAC continues its interest in seeking improvements throughout the justice system for more effective responses to the mental health needs of people in Iowa's prisons, jails, residential facilities and other community-based correctional programs. The CJPAC also recognizes the comprehensiveness of the planning responsibilities of the Iowa Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (CMHDD). To respond to legislation passed during the 2002 Legislative Session, The CMHDD has recently started a process to develop recommendations, by October of 2003, for a redesign of Iowa's mental health and developmental disabilities system. At the direction of the CJPAC, CJP staff are involved in this planning activity and will be seeking ways to provide research and other assistance to it in the months ahead. It is anticipated that the CJPAC will continue to express interest and support as the CMHDD's planning proceeds and as its recommendations are offered and reacted to by others.